



# ***St. James United Church***

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The Rev. Coral Prebble, *Coordinating Minister*

Thursday, June 25, 2020

## **Dear Members and Friends of St. James United Church,**

This will be my last Sunday with you as your minister, although my last official day of service is Tuesday, June 30, so you are welcome to contact me until then. It has been a great joy and privilege to get to know you and serve with you. You are an inspiring community of faith who have become my extended family. I will certainly miss you, yet primarily feel profoundly grateful. Thanks for your open and cooperative spirit, your loving support and generosity and a lifetime of great memories. I know that Rev. Maya Douglas will be very fortunate to be part of St. James. As of September 1<sup>st</sup> I will not be available for any funerals, weddings or baptisms and will not be in contact with you for at least one year to allow Rev. Maya to be your minister and bond with you. I am confident that God has a great future ahead for St. James and I wish you all God's abundant blessings.

## **Worship**

This Sunday, June 28 my last sermon will revolve around symbols of my ministry that I give back to you and to God to mark the end of my covenant relationship as your minister. It is a tradition in the United Church of Canada to covenant together at the beginning of a ministry relationship and to release that covenant at the end. As the writer of Ecclesiastes 3 wrote:

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ...

<sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup> ... a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup> ... a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

<sup>7</sup> ... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

<sup>8</sup> ... a time for war, and a time for peace. ...

<sup>11</sup> God has made everything suitable for its time.

In preparation for next Sunday, July 5, Eleanor Harris will post links to United Church congregations in Shining Waters Region offering virtual worship services online. St. James will again host worship online and by telephone beginning August 16.

## Birthdays



Happy birthday to people celebrating their birthday this week through August 15 who have given us permission to share the day and month they were born: Jennifer Allin-Heltcher – June 28, Alex Grant-Henderson – June 28, George Linton – July 2, Diane Brereton – July 4, Kevin Cortay – July 5, Al Graham – July 8, Sylvie Ty – July 11, Betty Ginger – July 15, Julia Young – July 15, Bo Porchuk – July 20, Clive Dunstan – July 27, Philip Kiss – July 29, Sam Obajimi – August 6 and Albert Conforzi – August 8. Hope you are spoiled special, enjoy a delightful day and countless blessings this year!

## Good News and Inspiration

During COVID-19 the opportunities to travel, learn and explore online are boundless and often free. If you have not yet discovered it, you may want to check out [www.MasterClass.com](http://www.MasterClass.com). Some of the world's best teachers share hours of fascinating videos including Space Exploration by astronaut Chris Hadfield, Creative Writing by Margaret Atwood, Singing and how to Expand Your Vocal Range by Christina Aguilera, Cooking, Photography, Scientific Thinking and the list goes on.

Aldo Violo also shared this truly uplifting video with me entitled, "YouTube 20 Good News Stories You Didn't Know About". In this 3 minute and 7 seconds video Chris Hadfield shares a list of 20 good news items that are worth celebrating. Three examples from this list of 20 include:

- The Giant Panda is no longer an endangered species.
- Canada protected 85% of the Great Bear Rainforest, part of the world's largest temperate rainforest.
- Israel produces 55% of its freshwater from the sea, turning the desert into farmland.

We have reasons to rejoice. May God's loving presence be your joy and inspiration.

*Rev. Coral*

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